GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3478
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2015
New Education System
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to develop a new education system/pattern for tribal people of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c): The Government has undertaken a collaborative, multi-stakeholder and multi-pronged consultation process for formulating the New Education Policy (NEP), which included online, grassroots and national level thematic deliberations on the 33 identified themes. Out of these 33 themes, there are two themes each under School Education and Higher Education which relate to education of tribal children. One of the themes under School Education is "Accelerating rural literacy with special emphasis on Women, SCs, STs & Minorities through Adult Education and National Open Schooling Systems" which emphasizes the need to enhance the literacy levels of the socially marginalized groups and those living in rural areas through interventions of adult education programmes and open schooling systems. Another theme under School Education is "Enabling Inclusive Education − education of Girls, SCs, STs, Minorities and children with special needs" which highlights the need for examining current interventions in bridging the gender and social gaps and identifying focused strategies for effective inclusion. Further, two themes under Higher Education viz. "Addressing regional disparity" and "Bridging gender and social gaps" focuses on increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) across social groups and reducing existing regional disparities.

The Govt. of India has constituted a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy and the suggestions received on the above themes have been forwarded to the Committee. The Committee will examine the outcome documents, recommendations and suggestions received and formulate a Draft National Education Policy as well as a Framework for Action (FFA).

Moreover, at present, there are several schemes at elementary and secondary school levels, which have significant bearing on educational development of Scheduled Tribes. In Higher Education also, University Grants Commission (UGC) implements various schemes for educational empowerment of Scheduled Tribes such as, Remedial Coaching at UG/PG level for SC/ST students, Coaching Classes for SC/ST candidates for preparation for National Eligibility Test (NET), Post-Graduate Scholarships for Students belonging to SCs/STs/Minorities, Post-Doctoral Fellowships for SC/ST etc. AICTE also implements Quality Improvement programmes with focus on provision of hostels and skill development for tribal students. Apart from Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also implementing several schemes for the educational development of Scheduled Tribes Students.

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